

June 27, 2012



City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor Canfield & Members of Council

From: Lisa Oakes

Re: Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) – Infrastructure Plan

Recommendation

WHEREAS, The Building Canada Plan and a number of important federal-provincial transfer agreements vital to Canada's cities and communities, will expire in March 2014; and

WHEREAS, Federal investments over the last few years have helped to slow the decline of our cities and communities, and the Government of Canada has committed to develop a new long-term plan for municipal infrastructure funding in consultation with municipal and provincial/territorial governments; and

WHEREAS, a seamless transition from the Building Canada Plan to a new long term plan is necessary to ensure that municipalities can continue planning their capital spending effectively; and

WHEREAS, The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has launched a campaign to ensure the new plan reflects municipal priorities across the country and asks its member municipalities to pass a Council resolution supporting the campaign; and

WHEREAS, our community has continuing infrastructure needs, in particular a significant bridge infrastructure, some in urgent need of rehabilitation works, that can only be met with through the kind of long-term planning and investment made possible by a national plan;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council endorses the FCM campaign and urges the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities to work with FCM to ensure the new long-term infrastructure plan meets the core infrastructure needs of cities and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council urges the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities to ensure that the new long-term plan is fully in place when existing programs expire in 2014; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Honourable Denis Lebel, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, to the Honourable Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, to the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to Greg Rickford, MP Kenora Riding, to Sarah Campbell, MPP Kenora – Rainy River, to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Background:

With more than 1,900 members, FCM represents the interests of municipalities on policy and program matters that fall within federal jurisdiction. Members include Canada's largest cities, small urban and rural communities, and 21 provincial and territorial municipal associations.

Since the formation of the FCM, municipal governments have maintained a strong advocacy role in lobbying the federal government to include municipal concerns in policy development and national decision-making. Through their national organization, they made sure the federal government understood the full impact of their decisions on municipal governments and taxpayers. Year after year, FCM's work has benefitted each and every municipal government and taxpayer in Canada.

Almost \$2 billion dollars a year in federal infrastructure funding for municipalities will end when the federal government's Building Canada Plan expires in March 2014. Federal investments over the last few years have helped to slow the decline of communities, and the Government of Canada has committed to develop a new long-term plan for municipal infrastructure funding in consultation with municipal and provincial governments. The government has promised to develop a new plan before the deadline, in partnership with municipalities, provinces, territories and other key stakeholders. The process is now entering the consultation phase and it is crucial that municipal governments participate. A transition from the Building Canada Plan to a new long-term plan is necessary to ensure that municipalities can continue planning their capital spending effectively.

FCM is holding an awareness and information-gathering campaign to ensure the new plan reflects municipal priorities across the country and is fully in place when existing programs expire in 2014.

The campaign was launched at FCM's Annual Conference in June, where the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities began his consultations. FCM's member municipalities are urged to tell the federal government how important continued infrastructure funding is to their community and to enlist the help of community groups in sending this message. FCM asks its member municipalities to pass a Council resolution supporting the campaign.

Our City has growing infrastructure needs, and some can only be met through the kind of long-term planning and investment made possible by a national plan.

Budget: N/A

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:

A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Honourable Denis Lebel, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, to the Honourable Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, to the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to Greg Rickford, MP Kenora Riding, to Sarah Campbell, MPP Kenora – Rainy River, to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.